

It remains to say that the book is provided with a very incomplete bibliography, that may be of use to those who have access to no other, and a conglomerate introduction of which there is no reason to speak further. The paper, binding, and typography are excellent.

*Benjamin W. Wells.*

"A PURITAN PEPPS."\*

Samuel Sewall, sometime merchant, royal councillor, judge, preacher, captain, husband, father, neighbour—and ever Puritan—was introduced to many readers through the brilliant essay written by Henry Cabot Lodge, and entitled "A Puritan Pepys." This essay appeared shortly after the publication of Sewall's Diary by the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1886. Since that time students and critics of the Diary have been many; but no such thorough survey of Sewall, his environment, and his theology, has been written as the recent book entitled *Samuel Sewall and the World He Lived in*.

The comparison of Sewall with Pepys is a natural and proper one as to historical value; indeed, Sewall's Diary reminds one of Pepys's on scores of pages; the entries in each, as to church-going and domestic life, though totally dissimilar, still suggest each other more than would seem possible for the diary of a virtuous Christian and that of a man who was virtuous and a Christian only spasmodically. All that *Pepys' Diary* is to the history of the England of his times Sewall's Diary is to New England, and their permanency of fame will be equal.

Mr. Chamberlain dedicates his study of Sewall and his times to the memory of "the late Dr. George E. Ellis," and he is evidently deeply filled with admiration of Dr. Ellis's book, *The Puritan Age in Massachusetts*. But the later book is in some respects more satisfactory than Dr. Ellis's great work. Mr. Chamberlain's is remarkable throughout for the conspicuous, patient, and distinctly sensible spirit of justice it shows toward Puritanism. Perhaps no one could have been better fitted to

show such equable judgment than this author has been through his years of deep and searching thought on the various systems of applied religion. For Mr. Chamberlain was bred a Unitarian preacher; became an Episcopal clergyman, somewhat of the so-called Catholic cultus; and has been a profound student of and lecturer on the English Reformation. The results of this study and deep thought show abundantly in the pages of this book, in apt comparison, forcible quotation and logical conclusion, and help to shape it into a well-rounded, well-balanced and convincing whole.

Mr. Chamberlain has not confined himself to Sewall's Diary for lights upon his picture, but has taken the aid of any vivid and truthful record of the times; and while the book is not distinctly a life of Sewall, yet the chapters are arranged in such chronological sequence that we have an orderly knowledge of the course of Sewall's days.

A notable quality of Mr. Chamberlain's analysis and comment is his comprehending sympathy of Sewall's nature. Two careful perusals of the fifteen hundred pages of the Diary, in a somewhat critical though not prejudiced mood, have not afforded so true an insight into and close touch with the simplicity and purity of Sewall's life and character as has the exposition afforded through the calm and kindly temper, as well as the clear and just words of Mr. Chamberlain. Even the jest of many an historiographer, the judge's remarkable and manifold courtships, displayed in his pages with a fulness and intimacy of detail that might be the envy of a genius like Montaigne; those "fluctuations," as he termed them, of his widowhood seem less absurd, less belittling, when the lonely old man is drawn by Mr. Chamberlain, doing what was the custom, the duty of his time, promptly seeking a wife's companionship, and with an unconscious honesty recording his hopes and pains.

Sewall, though he seems opinionated, narrow, mercenary, and over-frugal, as seen by the light of to-day, should be judged by the ethics of historical criticism—that is, regarded in the environment of his age, in the atmosphere and circumstances of Puritan New England. Thus viewed, his was certainly a kindly, wise, thoughtful, prudent, helpful, hon-

\* Samuel Sewall and the World He Lived in. By Rev. N. H. Chamberlain. Boston: De Wolfe, Fiske & Co. \$2.00.

ourable, and fruitful life. Even those dark days of his life, his brief but sad part in the Salem Witchcraft, are glorified by his noble public penitence therefor in later life. No man wrought better or more loyally for New England than Sewall during his life; no man has helped more toward her history than he in his Diary. We have no other diary to compare with it; no such abundant storehouse of old ways and social life; it shows a domestic life full of homeliness, industry, and love of kindred; a happy life, albeit a sombre one. We see the Bostonians of that day at funerals, weddings, and christenings, all equally formal; we see them keeping public and private fasts; we find them constant at the meeting-house on Lord's Day and Lecture Day; we find them watching and praying by the bedside of the sick; we know their food, drink, and raiment; we see them frequent but shallow in quarrel; we find them bargaining much, yet stiffly just in settlement; we discover their religion and their religionism, see them noting signs, finding lessons, and heeding warnings from the simplest events of nature; and we are forced to consider their extraordinary and antithetical triple regard of the Gospel, at one time obeying its words with a literalness that is both painful and startling, then reducing its teaching to a manual of worldly prudence and a handy book for success in mercantile life, and still revelling in its Eastern metaphor with an Orientalism that outglows that of the Orientals themselves. How much of all this knowledge we owe to Sewall's Diary! The picture of Boston of that century would be but a colourless outline without it.

Sewall was rich and respected; he was of the highest social position—Boston's "first citizen;" there was no other man of his day whose record of daily life would have been so valuable. He was persistent and methodical, else he would never have written a diary for fifty-five years. He was truthful and just, so his records not only illuminate history, but are themselves history.

Mr. Chamberlain's motive in writing his book was, to use his own words, "to assist in enlarging public interest in ancient things." Also, evidently, to stimulate a desire for the reading of the Diary itself; and, above all, to put on

record his thought and belief of the glory and mission of the New England fathers. That the book will fulfil his intents and wishes cannot be doubted by any who read it; that his judgment and presentment of the Puritan life of Sewall's day will influence the judgment and estimate of that life in the minds of his readers is equally certain, since it is the best picture of that life that has been written.

The book is published by a Boston house, whose work should be more frequently seen if all is of the character and quality of this handsome, well-equipped volume. It is finely illustrated with presentments of interesting old New England houses and scenes, and portraits of various old Sewalls, including that of the judge himself, displaying a type of countenance which seems far from Puritanical.

Alice Morse Earle.

#### A NEW IRISH NOVELIST.

With the publication of *By Thrasna River* a writer seems to have arisen to do for the Ireland of to-day what Dr. Watson has done for contemporary Scotland. The book met with a cordial, almost enthusiastic reception abroad, and although its audience may have been smaller in this country, the appreciation of it can scarcely have been less, for there is, indeed, much in Mr. Bullock's work which makes special appeal to American interest and sympathy. The types represented by him are almost exclusively of the emigrant class, and the principal characters grouped by Thrasna River look toward America as the promised land. This bond between the two countries is touched insistently and vibrantly in *Ring o' Rushes*, the new volume of short stories. Most of the eleven sketches composing the book have grown out of this almost universal longing among the Irish peasantry to try the New World, and nearly all of them reveal its influence, its effects on local semi-civilisation. The studies

\* By Thrasna River. By Shan F. Bullock. New York and London: Ward, Lock & Bowden.

Ring o' Rushes. By Shan F. Bullock. New York: Stone & Kimball. \$1.25.